

Bob Wiedrich

# CIA tried to use mob's Giancana

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency solicited gangster Salvatore [Momo] Giancana's help in developing a spy network in Fidel Castro's Communist Cuba about a year before the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion.

That may shock some readers who don't think official government agencies should consort with Mafia chiefs. But at the time of the 1960 approach to Giancana, the CIA scheme made sense.

Giancana was then the powerful operating head of the Chicago crime syndicate with tentacles reaching southward into the gambling casinos of the Caribbean, including Cuba.

GIANCANA HAD maintained casino interests along with other American gangsters in Havana before the Jan. 1, 1959, fall of the Fulgencio Batista regime. He was a pal of Meyer Lansky, the king of Cuban gambling until Castro chased him from the island.

And Giancana presumably would still have ways of reaching out thru the underworld to his many contacts remaining in the Cuban capital from his gambling days, including former payrollers of his casino interests, business associates, and other Cubans with whom he had dealt.

Thus, the international superspy agency had no moral compunction about contacting Giancana directly after preliminary negotiations thru intermediaries, one of whom may have been Richard Cain, the former Chicago lawyer who became an underworld double agent before his murder Dec. 20.

Responsible authorities here and in Washington confirm intelligence reports that the contact with Giancana was made.

And it is known Cain did have repeated traffic with the CIA in Chicago and Mexico City, reportedly informing on Castro Communist spies who had infiltrated Cuban exile groups in the United States.

However, it is not known for certain in what manner Giancana responded to the CIA invitation to join in its intelligence efforts that eventually laid the

sored Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

Giancana is said to have placed Cain in contact with Cuban sources in Havana and elsewhere in the Caribbean, contacts Giancana had personally made during his extensive travels in the area.

Further, surveillances of Cain's activities in that period show he visited a CIA office in Chicago in 1960 with information on Cuban exile groups in Chicago. Then later, in April, 1962, Cain reported to CIA agents in Mexico City on Cuban Communist clandestine operations in Mexico.

Cain had gone south of the border in 1931, informing Mexican authorities he intended to survey possibilities of expanding his Chicago-based lie detector and private detective agency to their country. At the time, his agency was located in the backroom of a loan shark-operated finance company bankrolled by the late mobster Fiore [Fifi] Buccieri.

The Mexicans didn't know that. But they did discover Cain had violated provisions of his government permit to carry out his survey. Instead, he had actually engaged in business. And that got him deported in June, 1962, a date in conflict with his claims of having been ousted in 1961 after training Cuban exiles in Mexico for the CIA invasion.

Cain is believed to have been Giancana's contribution to the CIA attempt to overthrow Castro. Cain had already made a survey of gambling casino possibilities for Giancana in Lima, Peru, and the Caribbean during 1960.

He had also joined two other Giancana aides—Carmen Bastone and Leslie [Killer Kane] Kruse—in checking out similar efforts in the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic.

And he had conferred with Giancana's close friend and business associate from Havana casino days, Meyer Lansky, the New York and Miami mobster who supervised the \$100 million a year Mafia-financed casinos under Dictator Batista from the Riviera Hotel there.

SINCE LANSKY was an old pal of Giancana and Chicago mob leaders Anthony [Big Tuna] Accardo and the late Paul [The Waiter] Ricca, his contacts in Havana were also undoubtedly invaluable to Cain in carrying out Giancana's mission for the CIA.

Cain's assignment was quite similar to that he performed for Giancana in the Middle East, Spain, Germany, and Italy after his release from federal prison in 1971.

No doubt about it. Cain was a man of many faces. His CIA caper with Giancana was one of them.

# Cain was on move with big schemes

RICHARD CAIN had so many projects underway at the time of his murder last week it is a wonder there was time enough left for two underworld assassins to gun him down:

- He was writing an expose on the hidden alliance between Chicago police, politicians, and crime syndicate gangsters, naming names and detailing facts based on his own experiences as an undercover Mafia agent while a police officer himself.

- He was seeking to complete financing for a \$2.4-million motion-picture extravaganza on the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; using a script he had written himself and including some personal experiences as a CIA payroller training Cuban refugees for the abortive attack.

- He was trying to line up a wealthy investor with \$100,000 to launch a gambling casino somewhere in the Mediterranean.

- And he was touring Rush Street and other North Side areas of the city, demanding that local mob enterprises now pay him the tribute due gangsters Joey [Caesar] DiVarco and Big Joe Arnold while they remained in jail on income tax-evasion charges.

Cain's multitudinous activities came to light yesterday thru a series of private letters written to Chicago friends earlier this year by Cain from the apartment he maintained under the aliases Richard Scott and Riccardo Scalzitti at Calzada Tacubaya, Mexico City.

This columnist was permitted to view them with the promise of eternal anonymity for the recipients. They make fascinating reading. And enough of the contents have been corroborated by other sources to give the material more than usual credence.

FOR EXAMPLE, Washington sources confirm off-the-record that Cain's claims of having been ousted from Mexico in 1961 after having trained anti-Communist refugees for an attack on Fidel Castro's island bastion are true.

Further, other sources in the capital verify Cain was hired by the CIA because his American crime syndicate connections afforded him certain contacts in Havana as a result of the mob-

operated gambling casinos that flourished in Cuba under former dictator Fulgencio Batista.

In a letter dated last Feb. 22, Cain reported a United States agency at odds with the CIA had been responsible for his 1961 ouster from Mexico by fabricating for local authorities a story he was a fugitive wanted back in Chicago. The following year Cain, a former Chicago police vice detective, was appointed chief investigator of the Cook County sheriff's office.

In his letter, Cain suggested one of his CIA chores had included wiretapping the Czechoslovakian embassy in Mexico City and that rivalry between the agencies had brought that to an abrupt halt.

Last April 2, Cain discussed his proposed novel and his need for a publisher.

"I have set aside all planned activities [including a trip to Europe . . .] in order to spend the next three months in seclusion writing a novel about the Chicago Police Department, politics, crime, etc. etc. I've been planning to do so for ages, but have been lazy . . . People should know about [a name obliterated] and how search warrants are obtained and ward committeemen and whores, not how gallant our guardians are!"

According to two of Cain's letters, his movie script is in the possession of a friend in Chicago. People who have read it verify its existence.

In a Feb. 7 letter, Cain claimed to have already obtained a \$1 million commitment for the film from European sources. A major Hollywood studio had offered to make up the difference in exchange for distribution rights. But Cain said he had refused the offer because the studio wanted to exercise "editorial license."

Exterior shots would be filmed in Mexico with the cooperation of the Mexican government thru the loan of an infantry regiment to portray combatants at the Bay of Pigs, he wrote. And, he claimed further, David Lean, the distinguished British movie director who won an Academy Award for "The Bridge on the River Kwai," was interested in the film.

THEN, IN a March 15 letter, Cain reported he could smooth the way for a prospective investor in a Mediterranean tourist hotel gambling casino by introducing him to the proper officials needed for a government license. He did not name the country, altho while in Chicago he boasted of plans for a gambling ship cruising off the island of Malta.

Finally, sources report Cain was alleging along Rush Street just a few days before his murder that he had been named to substitute for DiVarco and Arnold during their absence in prison and claimed to have their personal approval.

None of these schemes, however, came to pass. Cain didn't have enough time to do them all for he had an appointment he didn't know about—with death.

TO:

		ACTION	INFO.			ACTION	INFO.
1	DCI			11	IG		✓
2	DDCI			12	D/PPB		
3	DDS&T			13	SAVA		
4	DDI			14	ASST/DCI		
5	DDO	✓		15	AO/DCI		
6	DDM&S			16	EX/SEC		
7	D/DCI/IC			17			
8	D/ONE			18			
9	GC		↓	19			
10	LC		✓	20			

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks:

Facts pls -

DCI/DDCI

1/3/74